He called upon India to conduct no further tests and to sign the CTBT without any conditions. Sanctions have been imposed on India under US legislation—the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act (1994).

Prime Minister has written to President Clinton explaining the rationale underlying the decision to authorise these tests which were aimed at reassuring the India people that Government would attach the highest priority to addressing India's security concerns. Active contacts are being promoted with different sections of society, making clear our legitimate national security interests and undiluted commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

Government intends to continue to actively engage various countries, both at the official as well as the non-official level, highlighting our unique record of restraint and responsible conduct and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament. In our interaction with interlocutors in various countries, Government have reaffirmed that we are a responsible member of the international community and that our policies are marked by a high degree of restraint and responsible conduct.

Norms for determination of poverty line

*36. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for identifica tion of people below poverty line;

(b) whether the State Governments have opposed these norms;

(c) if so, the views of different State Governments expressed in the matter; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) the poverty line is anchored in the per capita daily intake of 2400 calorie in rural areas and 2100 calorie in urban areas. The money value of this norm is computed on a state-wise basis using state-specific prices.

(b) and (c) Due to difference in prices, the poverty line is above the national average in some state and below in some others. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are among the states where the poverty line is below the national average. These two state governments have represented to the Planning Commission on the plea that the state government sponsored food subsidy scheme is responsible for a lower price of foodgrains and hence' a lower poverty ratio.

(d) The poverty ratios of all the states of the country reflect the efforts made by both the Central and State governments for alleviation of poverty.

Dues payable to the widow of a Government servant

*37. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the dues that can be paid to a widow of a Government servant, who dies in harness;

(b)whether such dues can also be paid to her, if her late husband would have allegedly committed misappropriation, but where no charges were framed and established against him during his lifetime after following the due procedure prescribed under the law;

(c)whether any recovery can be made from those dues; if so, the kinds of recovery that can be made; and

(d) what are the relevant rules which prevent the Government from authorizing or/and withholding payment of such dues to a widow in such case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) The following types of dues can be paid to the widow of a Government servant who dies in harness:

(i) Family Pension (ii)Dcath-cum-Rctircmcnt Gratuity (iii) Amount due in the GPF (iv) Insurance under the Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme of the GPF rules (v) Amount due in Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme (CGEGIS) (vi) Leave Encashment (vii) Any other dues payable to the Government servant like arrears of pay, bonus etc.

Yes, Sir.

The following kinds of recoveries could be made from the death-cum-rctirement gratuity in accordance with Rule 80-C and Rule 71 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972:—

(i) Government dues which remain outstanding, as ascertained and assessed by the Head of the Office, shall be adjusted against the amount of retirement gratuity;
(ii) dues pertaining to government accommodation, including arrears of licence fee, if any;
(iii) dues relating to balance of house building or conveyance or any other advance;
(iv) over-payment of pay and allowances or leave salary; and
(v) arrears of income-tax deductible at source under the Income Tax Act.

(d) Rules 51-A of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 is relevant in this regard. An extract of the same is given in the state ment.

Statement

51-A. Debarring a person from receiving gratuity—

If a person who in the event of death of a Government servant while in service is eligible to receive gratuity in terms of Rule 51, is charged with the offence of murdering the Government servant for abetting in the commission of such an offence, his claim to receive his share of gratuity shall remain suspended till the conclusion of the criminal proceedings instituted against him.

If on the conclusion of the criminal proceedings referred to in sub-rule (I), the person concerned—

(a) is convicted for the murder or abetting in the murder of the Govern ment servant, he shall be debarred from receiving his share of gratuity which shall be payable to other eligible members of
. the family, if any,

(b) is acquitted of the charge of mur dering or abetting in the murder of the Government servant, his share of gratuity shall bp payable to him.

(3) The provisions of sub-rule (I) and sub-rule (2) shall also apply to the undis bursed gratuity referred to in sub-rule (2) of Rule 51.

Similarly, under Rule 54(11-C) of the CCS C Pension) Rules, 1972, the Family Pension to the widow could remain suspended till the conclusion of criminal proceedings against her.

Construction of Sardar Sarovar Project

*38. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has stayed further construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project recently;

(b)whether Government of Gujarat has approached the Central Government for getting vacation of stay in Supreme Court;

(c)if so. when; and